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VIRGINIA'S PRISON AND LEGISLATURE

Immoral and Unsanitary Conditions from Overcrowding.

ACTION LOOKING TO RELIEF

A Bill With Appropriation to Be Framed by a Subcommittee.

MUCH EARNEST DISCUSSION

Committees of the Senate and House Hold a Joint Session-The Commission's Report Considered-The State's Financial Condition-Mr. Keezell Opposed to a Bond Issue.

Of the conditions which obtain at the Virginia penitentiary much has been spoken and printed in the last few months and years. Time and again the unsanitary and immoral environment of this many times overcrowded institution has been graphically pictured before the people of the State and their representatives in Legislature and convention assembled. Probably those acquainted with the prison and the story of the life within its walls have never presented the subject with more terrible simplicity and straightforward carnestess than did Representative Richmond last night in the discussion before the joint session

in the discussion before the joint session of Senate Committee on Public Institutions and Education and the House Committee on Asylums and Prisons.

The upshot of the meeting, which was called to consider the report of the pentientlary commission appointed a year ago, after a public hearing and a considerable discussion in executive session, was the appointment of a subcommittee of ten, four from each committee, with the chairman of each, to consider the whole subject and frame a bill carrying

whole subject and frame a bill carrying an appropriation for the relicf of the present situation. EARNEST ADDRESSES.

The fact that the story was no new the made unnecessary any prefatorial statements by way of introduction. The speakers, one and all, grappled with the central problems which confront the State of the conduct of the institution in the simplest terms and the most direct manier. Dr. Charles V. Carrington, the surgeon of the prison, than whom no one has a larger acquaintance with the life of the prison told of the immoral and unsanitary results of crowding twelve stundred men into a prison built for three lundred. His statement made a profound impression on the committees. The re-The fact that the story was no new paindred. His statement made a profound impression on the committees. The reprets of committees and officials had told nuch. The simple direct testimony of the surgeon of this prison told much mere of the conditions existing in an institution in which Virginia cultivates among twelve hundred men—many of them young short-term men soon to be terned loose in counties and cities and towns the State over—the lowest and most bestial forms of degeneracy and citiminality.

criminality. The short address of Dr. Le Cato, chair-The short address of BLO Commission, was simple, direct and terrible in its emphasis and carnestness. Dr. Le Cato has been a careful student of the problem which confronts the State. He has rendered and will render valuable service that wetter as he is the chairman of this matter, as he is the chairman of the Senate committee which has the mat

ter in hand. The Rev. George Cooper, the Rev. L. R Mason, and the Rev. R. A. Goodwin told of their personal inspection and acquaintance with the penitentiary. Their imressions and recollections were very graphic and impressive.

MANY LADIES PRESENT. Probably the most notate and telling feature of the meeting was the presence of a representative company of the good women of richmond who have been pro-foundly stirred on this subject. Many of those present were ladies who have perthose present were ladies who have per-sonal acquaintance with the condition of the prison by reason of religious work, which they have conducted within its walls. There was a full attendance of

THE COMMISSION'S REPORT. The report of the Commission was first read. It recounts the overcrowded condition and recommends a new steel ceil building for 668 prisoners on Belvidere Street, to cost about \$250,000 complete. To

mends either—
That the Legislature appropriate 100,000 for two successive years, allowing in addition the use for this period for this purpose the net revenues derived from

the penitentiary. the penitentiary.

2. To authorize the borrowing of \$250.

(iii), with the pledge of the revenues of the penitentiary annually to its payment, authority for this loan being asked from the Constitutional Convention row in session."
The last repot of the Board of Disectors was read, showing that even after deducting the deficit occasioned by the State farm and also the expense of transporting crimmals to and from the prison, which is charged to the pententiary, that institution last year clear-

ed a net profit over all expenses for the state of \$46.598.59. There are 1,200 men in the prison in 191 There are 1,200 men in the prison in 191 cells and the contract with the Davis Shoe Company requires the State to supply to that company this number of employes until the end of the contract in 1913. The larger number of the cells measure 14 by 6 feet and in this space is crowded five and six men by a false celling of berths, or bunks, suspended from the celling. The entire absence of ventilation and sewerage was dwelt upon in the commissioners' and directors' reports.

DR. LE CATO'S ADDRESS. Dr. Le Cato, the chairman of the com-mission, was the first speaker of the evening. He thought the State was fact to face with a crisis which should be met. For nine years he had been acquainted with the needs and conditions at the peniten

tiary. During that period every Gover-nor had recommended action and every Legislature had considered some measure other. Nothing had been done. Since then a committee of the Constitutional Convention had conducted an investigation and made a report of facts which might well shock the State of Virginia. A similar report had come from the commission, the creature of the Legislature.

These facts were fully set forth in re-ports of the commission, the committees, the surgeon, the Board of Directors without number. Of them there could be no discussion or question. The matter for the consideration of the Legislature was the remedy for the conditions existing. The remedy suggested by the commission

In conclusion Dr. Le Cato very carnestly urged upon the Legislature the consideration of the subject. The commission turned the whole subject over to that

was outlined in the report of the com-

Rev. George Cooper, D. D., told of his visits to the prison and his thorough acquaintance with the whole subject. The report of the commission underestimated the inhumanc features of the penitentiarry's condition. He earnestly hoped that the Legislature would take some steps to request this blot form the fair name of the move this blot from the fair name of the

MR. CLAYTOR'S RESOLUTION.
Mr. Claytor offered a resolution that a subcommittee of the two committees be appointed to frame a bill providing for appropriation to relieve the conditions

of the penitentiary.

Mr. Keezell opposed the issuing of bonds
and was in favor of instructing the subcommittee to bring in a bill providing for an appropriation from the revenues of the State. The net excess of the State's revenues over expenditures for the past three years had been \$463.000, \$203,000 and \$334,000, respectively. Of this surplus \$500,000 had been used to purchase bonds of the State. There was \$1,115,000 in the sinking fund, and the State was under no obligation to the bondholders in connection with the sinking fund until \$100. Last Scotember there was over Last September there was over \$25,000 in the treasury, making, with the sinking fund, available assets of about \$7,000,000. From this financial showing Mr. Keezell argued that the State could well afford to make the appropriation without issuing bonds.
DR. CARRINGTON'S STATEMENT.

DR. CARRINGTON'S STATEMENT.
Dr. Charles V. Carrington, the surgeon of the penitentiary, was the next speaker. As he was entering upon a discussion of the subject he was interrupted by Mr. Lyle, who was of the opinion that members could see for themselves. It took only a half hour to go and see, and besides Mr. Lyle was not favorably impressed with the present contract arrangement and the building of a prison. His remarks were the only expressions of this character heard at the expressions of this character heard at the meeting. Mr. Lassiter, Mr. Diand and others insisted on hearing from Dr. Car-rington in full, in suite of Dr. Lyle's obsection and he made a full statement of the unsanitary and immoral conditions which surround the life of the prisoners during a portion of which the ladies re-

ouring a portion of which the ladies fettred.

"Why don't you build a building at the farm? Why don't you do something like that?" asked Mr. Lyle.

"If I was a member of the Legislature, I would have done something long ago," replied Dr. Carrington.

"In Lyle then ratived from the meet-Mr. Lyle then retired from the meet-

inc.

The Rev. L. R. Mason and Rev. R. A. Goodwin made e-rnest statements of what they had seen and knew of their own knowledge. In the name of humanity and the good name of the State they pleaded for action at this time. Mr. Mason brought out well the point that the betterment of the conditions at the prison would greatly increase the efficiency and earling cauacity of the men, and thus the appropriation, from a simple business point of view, was to be commended.

The committees went into executive seesion, and it was decided to appoint a joint

sien, and it was dec'ded to appoint a joint subcommittee of ten to frame a bill, carry-ing an approriation, to be introduced si-multaneously in the two branches of the

No Action Taken.

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, March 3.—The Republican members of the House, who met in conference again to-night to consider the Cuban relief question, after three hours of fruitless discussion adjourned until Thursday without action.

BROTHERS BURIED SIDE BY SIDE

E. F. Green Follows Sterling Green to the Grave-Measles Followed by Pneumonia.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.) PAMPLIN CITY, VA., March 3.-With in twenty-four hours of the death of Sterling Green, mentioned in last Friday's issue of The Times, his brother, E. F. Green, died of pneumonia, which followed

measles.
On Saturday at the same hour they were buried here temporarily, side by side in the Presbyterian Church lot. The former leaves a wife and one small child; the latter a wife. The two wives and their sister. Miss Mason, and the little child are still sick, but all are thought to be improving.

Another brother besides the one men-

tioned last week has come to aid in waiting on them. The citizens are still showing kindly and helpful aid. Just over the way from the house of this stricken family, Miss Nannie Wo

mack is ill with pneumonia. The goodly number who have had measles are now convalescent, and this disease, which was so prevalent around us, is abating.

DEBT IS PAID OFF.

t. James Episcopal Church Raised \$1,700 on Sunday.

There was a debt of \$1,700 due by the St. James Episcopal Church for repairs The whole amount was raised on Sunday Linvelopes were placed in the pews, and when they had been collected the aggre gate amount was more than sufficient to ray off the debt.

HYGEIA MUST GO.

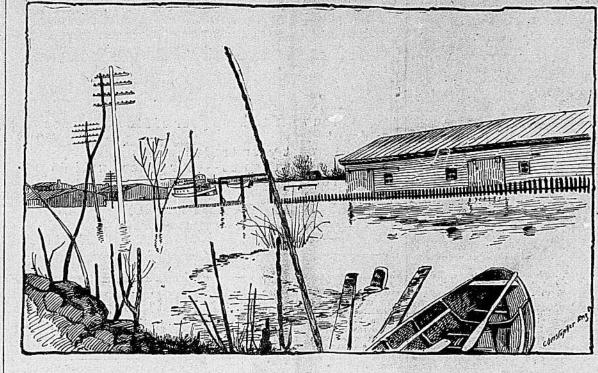
he Government Wants Site of Hotel for a Fort.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)
NEWPORT NEWS, VA., March 3.—It
is reported that the Army Reconstruction
Board will recommend that the government purchase the Hygein Hotel, Point, the plan being to tear the hotel down and establish a fort.

Bishop Funsten Here.

Bishop J. B. Funsten, of Idaho, formed of Richmond, is here on a visit and is the guest of Rev. Thomas Semmes. He came up from Norfolk yesterday, where he made six addresses on Sunday. He spoke twice at Williamsburg on his way here. The Bishop will leave here tomorrow for Pennsylvania. He will be back in Richmond in about two weeks and will make some addresses.

WHEN THE JAMES FORGETS THE PROPRIETIES OF A WELL BEHAVED AND HISTORIC STREAM.



This picture is a true representation of the river at its highest Sunday afternoon. The house close by on the right is the shed of the Old Dominion wharf. The water is half way the height of the building. The wellnigh submerged sheds in the distance belong to the Virginia Navigation Company. The scene presented was beheld with wondering awe by thousands.

UGLY SITUATION IN NORFOLK CITY

Ten Thousand Volt Current to Prevent Wire Cutting.

WOULD KILL BY A TOUCH

Strike Sympathizers Pile Lumber on the Tracks.

SOLDIERS HAVE TO PULL IT OFF

Many of the Soldiers in Sympathy With the Str.ke and Turn Their Eyes Away When the Fuses Arc Pulled From the Cars. All Quiet Under Military Guard, But Further Trouble is Feared.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.) NORFOLK, VA., March 2-Norfolk has

ad an exciting time to-day with the striking street car men. All is quiet tonight, however, though great anxiety is felt for the morrow. The day opened by the Seventy-first Regiment going to the car barns of the Norfolk Railway and Light Company to start the cars, which had been still two days.

The scene was a thrilling one, and it was a pleasant surprise when, instead of riotous actions, many of the old men took their places on the cars, and under military and police protection, ran them out of the sheds and over their accustomed routes.

This did not last long, however. Many of the men who returned to work wrongly understood that the company had abated some of their demands, and when they found they were mistaken they rejoined the strikers.

During the afternoon something like 500 to 1,000 people, including many members of labor unions, gathered on upper Church Street and placed lumber across the car tracks, stopping the cars. MILITIA LUGGING LUMBER

These obstructions were from time to time removed by the soldiers, who put in some hours lugging lumber. The crowd jeered them and the work was distaste-ful, since many soldiers are trade unionists and in sympathy with the strikers. Afterwards strikers or sympathizers congregated on the track in such numbers that the cars could not pass, or cut the trolley ropes and persuaded the motormen to cease work. These obstructive tactics practically prevented the running of cars. SOLDIERS LOOKED AWAY.

The fuse was also removed from some The fuse was cliso removed from some cars or screws were removed, the soldiers looking the other way while this was being done, and notwithstanding eight companies of troops, the Norfolk constabulary and the entire force and reserves of Norfolk police assisted the company, the running of cars was this evening impracticable. The people generally are in sympathy with the strikers. erally are in sympathy with the strikers. The men say that this is probably due to the fact that the railway company has dabbled in local politics, has plastered the city with passes distributed among councilmen, politicians and attorneys, employing Mr. Johnston as general manager while he was yet Mayor and employing. Comproved this, Attorneys and employing Commonwealth's Attor-ney Venables law firm as counsel. These facts, used by the enemies of the officials, politically and financially, have

spread dissatisfaction widely.
CROMWELL ASKED FOR TROOPS. Sheriff Cromwell states that he asked snerif Cromwell states that he asked Cov. Montague to order out the troops because one Kelly, lately an inspector for the railway company and now a striker, made a speech this morning before the strikers, in which he told the sheriff that none of the company's property would be harmed, but that trouble would ensue if an attempt were made. would ensue if an attempt were made

to run cars with non-union men, It being discovered that the troops were asked for yesterday, Sheriff Cromwell is censured by many who believe that the troops should not have been ordered out unless the strikers had done some overt net in violation of law.

Kelly was arrested to-day for some unwise act or speech, but was subsequently | for the expense of next year.

released on bail. He is an especially hot talker.

'IMPORTED FROM RICHMOND.

Eleven men were imported from Balti-more and six from Richmond by the our company, but the few cars run out were manned by mormer employes. It is rumored that because of the fact that the company made no attempt to run cars two days, some hostiles will seek to se-

two days, some hostiles will seek to secure the annulment of their charter."
To-night four companies of troops are on duty on the car line, while four sleep in the armory. Distasteful as the calling out of the troops was o the majority of the citizens, it is regarded as probable that had they not been on the scene there would probably have been some fighting; what 'row has been made, though, is only taceable to strike sympathizers, and no striker has been detected in any act unlawful. cted in any act unlawful,

It is apprehended that the company's wires will be cut to-night. The report that they were cut to-day appears erroneous. The cars are all in the barn tonight. Pickets patrol Huntersville and the suburbs. COOL-HEADED OFFICERS.

COOL-HEADED OFFICERS.
Colonel Higgins, commanding the troops, is cool-headed and test, and possesses the confidence of the public and of his men. Many soldiers, especially Portsmouth and Newport News men are outspoken sympa-

thizers of the strikers.

The company turned ten thousand volts current on the trolley wire to-night, and so advised the strikers. This probably means that no trolleys will be cut us to approach the trolley closely means elec-trocution. Mr. R. Lancaster Williams ordered that no attempt be made to run cars to-night, saying that it is useless to risk the lives of the motormen, as no pas-sengers will embark on the cars. ARMED TO THE TEEH.

The soldiers each have thirty rounds of ammunition, and each policeman has riot club and two revolvers. The number of baybnets was but slightly greater than of bottles out to-day, most of the soldiers, some junior officers and many strikers having very evidently drank much. Only about thirty-five of the strikers are inclined to violence, the most of the discharged employes being quiet and law-abiding. One battalion of troops are camped in the car barn, the other at the armory down-town. The first car started at 10:52 o'clock this

At every turn one encountered a blue uniformed soldier with bristling bayonet attached to formadable looking rifle.

(Continued on Second Page.

REPORT AGAINST PANAMA PROJECT

Subcommittee Decides That the Legal Complications Are Too Many.

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, D. C., March 3.—The subcommittee of the Committee on Interoceanic Canals to-day agreed to rec-ommend to the full committee that the legal complications surrounding the Panama offer are such that the United States

should not accept it.
This subcommittee consists of Sena-ters Morgan, Mitchell, Kittridge, Pritchard, Foster, of Louisiana, and Turner. Senator Pritchard was not at the meet-ing to-day, while Senator Kittringe said that he reserved the right to make a minority report to the full committee. minority report to the full committee. The other four members united in the recommendation.

Y. M. C. A. TO RAISE \$25,000.

Movement to Pay Off Indebtedness loaugurated-Two Promise \$1,000 Each.

A movement has been legun by the Young Men's Christian Association to raise \$25,000 to pay off the entire indebt-edness of the Y. M. C. A. Richmond is soon to have one of the most active canvasses known here in years. In fact it has already begun. A committee, com-posed of several of the leading men of the city, is at work on schemes. They will report three. If one is found to be impracticable, one of the others will be

Several gentlemen have been asked to give something towards the liquidation of the debt. Two of them at once promised to give at least \$1.000 cach. They will likely give more, as both are great believers in the work of the Y. M. C. A. The committee will make its report in a short time, and then some one will be calle? upon probably to give his time to the canvass for the needed money. The sum stated above, \$25,000, will pay

THE SHIPPING BILL BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. Frye Made the Opening Speech in Support of It.

HE GROWS EPIGRAMMATIC

"The Mail Must Precede the Trade," He Declares.

SAYS FREE SHIPS NO REMEDY

House Began Discussion of Rural Free Deliv ery, and Mr. Swanson Led the Fight Against the Contract System. Conference Make Their Report on Philips pine Bill.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 3.-Th Senate began to-day the consideration of what is popularly known as the shipping DIRE DISASTER of the Committee on Commerce, made the opening speech in support of the bill. He occupied the floor for nearly two hours reviewing the measure reported by the committee and dealing with questions which have arisen in connection with its consideration. Mr. Frye's address was largely techni-

with close attention by Senators on both sides of the chamber.

It seemed to him, Mr. Frye said, that the policy of protection had been vastly beneficial to the American people. The United States, he asserted, had no peer industrially. Only one industry had been without protection—and without preterion—and without preterior—and without preterior—a ut protection—and without protec tion for fifty years—and with the logical result. The shipping interests of the country had been neglected in the giving of protection. This country had permitted its inferiors to seize upon the pathways of ocean commerce almost without a struggle.

cal, but his argument was listened to

It seems to me," said air. Frye, "that "It seems to me," said Mr. Frye, "that that picture ought to humiliate and mortify beyond expression any patriotic citizen of the United States who glories in the power and prosperity of his country.

It is not alone humiliating; it is absolutely dangerous." Mr. Frye asked who was going to carry the \$187,000,000 of exports in the event of a war between Germany and Great Britain.

Great Britain.

"Why," said he, "the farmers and the manufacturers and the wage-earners of the Urited States would pay a peraity equal to that paid by either of the contending parties."

tending parties AMERICAN WAGES. AMERICAN WAGES.

Mr. Frye then sought to show that this condition of things was caused by American wages, which increased the cost of our ships for the foreign trade at least

25 per cent.

Mr. Frye declared that of all steam Mr. Frye declared that of all steam-ships in the world of 14 knots and up-ward 80 per cent. are subsidized by the countries whose flags they carry. Of 16 knots and upward, he said, all but six in the world are heavily subsidized by the countries whose flags they float. "Are we to submit to this humiliating, wretched condition of things?" said Mr. Frye.

Frye. The nations paying these subsidies, he dcclared, did so for the purpose of ex-tending their trade and for nothing else. "Trade cannot precede the mail," sai said

he; "the mail must precede the trade." Mr. Frye contended that there is not a ation on this earth that needs markets ration on this earth that needs markets for its surplus products more than the United States. An American ship handled by intelligent, active, earnest and interested American officers, he said, is a better instrument for the distribution of our products abroad than a German ship officered with Germans, Germany eing a dangerous rival of the United States.

FREE SHIPS. Mr. Frve declared that free ships, for

which some Senators were contending, would mean an increase in cost of 25 per cont. more than they do now and would close every shippard in the United States close every shippard in the United States point are folling steadily.

The damage has not been as great rade. He said that bounties had been as was anticipated, owing to warn-siggested, but these were repugnant to the Constitution and a violation of \$1. off the debt, part of which is the original debt, furnish the improvements detries at the said that bounties had been sired for the first floor, and leave enough a regrested, but these were repurposed to

commercial treaties with different nations

"Now, these nations are to-day looking alously at us," said Mr. Frye, "and it "Now, these nations are to-day looking jealously at us," said Mr. Frye, "and it is said that they are studying the problem as to how they can stop us from getting into these foreign markets.

To abrogate these treaties, he said, would only serve as an excuse for retailation. He said that the only way to

taliation. He said that the only way to accomplish anything in the direction indicated by him would be to pay from the Treasury of the United States annually a sum of money which shall be equal to the difference between the operating and carrying on of the trade in cting and carrying on of the trade in fereign ships and that carried in our own. The Republican party had stood by that idea of protection and encouragement ever since it had been a party in power, and that party, he insisted, could not excuse itself from leaving an industry as important as this entirely unprotected. Mr. Frye said that in two years the enactment of the pending bill would increase the expenditure in American shipyards \$40,000,000. In addition, the mail subsidies, amounting now to nearly \$3,000,000 a year, would act as an offset to the amount of about \$6,000,000 paid in subsidies to American shipping. subsidies to American shipping.

In the House.

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., March 3.—The
House to-day began the consideration of the bill to classify the rural free delivery service and place the carriers under the contract system. Only two speeches were delivered to-day. Mr. Loud, of California, chairman of the Committee on Post-offices and Post-roads, made the opening argument in favor of the bill, speaking for two and a half hours. Mr. Swanson, of Virginia, led the opposition. The debate was interrupted before the close of the session by the presentation of the conference report upon the Philippine tariff bill. Mr. Payne, the majority leader, de-clined to allow the minority more than thirty minutes in which to discuss the report, and this offer was rejected by Mr. Richardson, the minority leader. A filibuster followed, and the House adjourned, after the previous question upon the adoption of the report had been or-

RURAL DELIVERY.

Mr. Loud, of California, began the de-bate upon the rural free delivery bill. He declared that upon the solution of this question would depend whether the rural free delivery service would cost ultimately sixty or twenty million dollars per annum. The rural free delivery service up to this time, he said, had been a political one, and it had given many members of Congress their first taste of the sweets of public patronage. He traced the his tory and the rapid growth of the service and its cost, declaring that it was the most extravagant in the public service. At the inception the carriers received \$300 per annum. They now received \$500. If the salary system was continued they would eventually receive \$800 or \$900. At the present time \$550,000 was being spent for the supervisory force.

Mr. Loud charged that a promise had gone forth that if the present system was continued, the members of Congress would control the appointment of the carriers in the future, as they had in the

past.

MR. SWANSON HEARD.

Yerginia, argu-

Mr. Swanson, of Virginia, argued that the present system would be more ad-vantageous to the rural communities than the contract system. He contended that if the service were made effective it would eventually become self-supporting. Mr. Swanson contended that the contract system, under the terms of the bill, would allow the building up of a political machine by permitting the department to pass upon the trustworthiness of the bidders. He said that the present sys-tem, by which Democratic Congressmen were allowed to name half the carriers in their districts, should be continued.

TO BRITISH ARMS

Boers Made Determined Attack and Killed and Captured Total of 632-British.

(By Associated Press.)

LONDON, March 3.-In a dispatch from Pretoria, dated to-day, Lord Kitchener sends details of the disaster to the excert of the convoy of empty wagens at Vondonep, southwest of Klerksdorp, Transvall Colony. The British casualties in killed, wounded and men made prisoners reach the total of 632. In addition, the

Boers captured two guns.
Lieutenant-Colonel Anderson, who commanded the British force and who has re-turned to Kraaipan, Cape Colony, with nine officers and 245 men, reports that when his advance guard was within ten miles of Klerksdorp on the morning of February 25th, the Boers opened a heavy rifle fire on the troops from the scrub. The Burghers were driven off and the convoy resumed its march, when a more determined attack was made on the convoy's left flank, the Boers getting within a hundred yards and stampeding the mules harnessed to a number of wagons.

The attacking forces were again driven

At about 6:30 in the morning the rear guard was attacked by a strong force of Boers, and simultaneously another body of Boers boldly charged the center of the convoy and stampeded the muces in all directions, throwing the escort into confusion, during which the Boers charged and recharged, riding down the separated British units. The fighting lasted for two hours, during which the two British guns and a pompon almost exhausted their ammunition. A detachment of 200 mount ed infantry from Klerksdorp attempted to reinforce the British, but were held in check by the Boers.

Lieutenant-Colonel Anderson adds that the strength of the Boers was estimated at from 1.200 to 1.700. Commandants Delarey. Kemps. Celliers, Lemmer, Wolman ans and Potgier were all present. Com-mandant Lemmer is said to have been killed.

THE TENNESSEE RIVER.

Crest of Flood Pats it Above the Danger Mark.

(By Associated Press.)

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., March 2-The flood in the Tennessee River has nearly spent its force, and the crest will be reached here at 6 o'clock to-night with a tide of thirty-seven feet, which is four feet above the danger line. The Tennessee and its tributaries above this

HAY AND JONES TRY TO COME TO BLOWS

Fist Fight Narrowly Averted in Committee Room.

THEY ARE KEPT APART

They Are Separated, Shake Hands and Make Friends.

WORDS IN WITNESS' MOUTH

This Charge by Mr. Hay Indiguantly Denice

by Mr. Jones, and the Trouble Follows-Decision in the Norfolk County Case, Giving Each Faction Half of There came near being a fist fight in the meeting of the Democratic State Executivo Committee last night between

Congressmen W. A. Jones, of Richmond county, and James Hay, of Madison, both members of the committee. It was before the body had reached its decision to give each of the contending factions in Norfolk county one-half of the County Committee. It was long past the hour of midnight, and Mr. J. E. Hail,

a "Straightout" witness, was on the stand. According to reliable information, Mr. Hall was being examined by Mr. Jones, when Mr. Hay said that his colleague should not put words into the mouth of the witness. Mr. Jones replied that he was not putting words into the witness mouth. Mr. Hay insisted that he was, and after they had several times reiterated their charges and demais, Mr. Jones said it Mr. Hay persisted in the charge he teld what was untrue.

MADE AT EACH OTHER.

In less time than it would take to tell
it, the Seventh District Congressman was up and at his colleague from the First Listrict, and the latter was likewise at-tempting to strike, but Hon. S. L. Kerley, of this city, who happened to occupy a seat between them, with the aid of other members of the committee and wit-

resses, kept them apart.

Excitement ran nigh in the crowded room for a few moments, and so determined were the two congressmen to strike each other that it was with some difficulty that they were kept out of reach of each other until some of the heat of the moment had left them. Here the trouble ended and the two later on shook hands and left the room as good friends as ever, SAW TROUBLE AHEAD.

When the war of words started between Messrs. Jones and Hay everybody who know them expected trouble, for the started between are both men of attooute personal courage. When they made their mad rush at one another, their colleagues knew it was time for action, and they did act with vigor and prompiness to prevent

The matter was deeply regretted on all nands, but its mai, samsfactory adjust-ment was a source of equal gratification. EACH FACTION GETS HALF.

The decision of the committee, which was reached at 2 o'clock this morning, jeaves the muddle in Nortoik county about as it stood last night. when the pody convened the "fusionists" and the "straightouts" each had a full county committee. When the body adjourned, each side had half of the committee, with no prospect of ever being able to clect a chairman.

The decision did not seem to please any one. The "straghtouts" did not approve it and the "Fusion" leaders were condemning it on the ground that it was no settlement.

There were four uncontested districts. The Washington and Butts Acades Districts were conceded to the "Straigntouts" and the Tanner's Creek and Deep Creek Districts to the "Fusionists." The two in dispute were Western Branch and Pleasant Grove. The former was given to the "Fusionists" and the latter to the "Straightouts."

The fight down in Norfolk county will now go merrily on, and at present there is practically no county committee.

HAD A LONG SESSION. The committee met in executive session at 8:30 o'clock in Chairman Ellyson's office., The members present were Messrs, Jones, Barnes, Kelley, Hay, Willard, and

Echols and Chairman Eliyson.

There were a great number of persons interested in both sides present, and Mr. G. W. Jones was the first speaker. He was the spokesman and leader for the "Straightouts," and argued in an abic manner in favor of taking up and deter-mining the case. Captain R. C. Marshall replied at length and with characteristic force against going into the matter being the leader and chief advocate of the "Ft

At 10 o'clock the committee held a couference, and at 19:20 Chairman Ellyson arnounced that they had decided to open the case and hear argument, allowing one hour to each side. Messrs, W. Mel-Weodhouse and G. W. Jones spoke for the "Straightouts," and Captain Marshail for the "Fusionists," and a great many

witnesses were examined. There were a great many politicians representing both sides in the committeeroom, and the decision was eagerly awaiting when the body went into executive session.

THE FLOOD DAMAGE,

Two of Mrs. George Vanderbilt's Fine Horses Drowned at Liltmore.

(Ity Associated Press.)
ASHEVILLE, N. C., March 3.—The damage to railroads and county roads in western North Carolina caused by the recent storm and floods is enormo it is known that no lives were I eral towns have been cut off entirely since last Thursday. The railway aftua-tion is slightly improving, and an accom-modation train left for Marshail this ofternoon. The railreads are employing all possible means to hasten the repairing of their lines.